

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 OPIC-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2388

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E. O. 71652: N/A

TAGS: PINS MILI UG

SUBJECT: GENERAL AMIN HARANGUES HIS TROOPS

SUMMARY. IN SPEECH DELIVERED APRIL 19 TO OFFICERS AND MEN OF MALIRE MECHANIZED REGIMENT (KEY MILITARY UNIT IN KAMPALA AREA) AND PARATROOPERS' SCHOOL, GENERAL AMIN CRITICIZED SOME SENIOR OFFICERS FOR BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE AND OTHER SORTS OF SERIOUS MISBEHAVIOR. HE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO APPOINT OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS TO TAKE UP NON- MILITARY DUTIES UNDER HIS REORGANIZATION PLAN. AMIN ALSO CHARGED THAT TWO FORMER MINISTERS, RUGUMAYO AND BANAGE, ARE NOW IN ZAMBIA, WHERE THEY " MAY BE DISCLOSING UGANDA' S SECRETS TO THE PRESS." END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT ADVISED OFFICERS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED MANY BUSINESSES, RUNNING OF WHICH INTERFERES WITH THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES, TO RESIGN AND CONCENTRATE ON THEIR BUSINESS AFFAIRS. HE WARNED OFFICERS AND MEN ABOUT MISBEHAVIOR AND BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE IN FOLLOWING TERMS:

(A) THEY SHOULD NOT ARREST PEOPLE WITHOUT REASON BUT ONLY AFTER INVESTIGATION;

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(B) GENERAL SAID HE HAD RECEIVED " NUMEROUS" COMPLAINTS FROM PEOPLE ABOUT MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES;

(C) OFFICERS AND NON- COMS ARE TO BLAME IF THERE IS NO DISCIPLINE IN ARMY;

(D) THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF OFFICERS HARASSING PEOPLE IN BARS, HOTELS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES;

(E) THREE SENIOR OFFICERS ARE GIVING ARMY A BAD NAME; THEY ARE " BUSINESS MINDED;" INSTEAD OF STAYING IN THEIR HOMES OR OFFICERS' MESS THEY LIVE IN BIG HOTELS WITH CROOKS, WASTE MONEY, DRINK HEAVILY, AND FIGHT ALL THE TIME; THEY DRESS SHABBILY (" LIKE COWBOYS"); THEY SHOULD RESIGN IF THEY ARE TIRED OF BEING IN ARMED FORCES;

(F) SOLDIERS WHO OBSERVE OFFICERS MISBEHAVING IN PUBLIC SHOULD REPORT THEM SO THEY CAN BE DISCIPLINED OR SHOULD DETAIN THEM FOR LATER PUNISHMENT;

(G) SOME OFFICERS HAVE BEEN CLOSING CERTAIN FACTORIES IN KAMPALA BECAUSE THEY WANT TO TAKE THEM OVER THEMSELVES;

(H) SOME OFFICERS HAVE ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED HOUSES LEFT BY DEPARTED ASIANS, AND DON' T PAY RENT;

(I) GENERAL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ORDINARY SOLDIERS, BUT CRITICIZED SENIOR OFFICERS WHO ARE ALWAYS IN BARS AND BIG HOTELS.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT' S CATALOGUE OF MILITARY MISDEMEANORS AND WORSE IS ACCURATE ENOUGH. QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING THESE OFFICERS UNDER CONTROL OR EASE THEM OUT. END COMMENT.

3. AS PART OF REORGANIZATION PLAN PRESIDENT SAID HE MAY APPOINT SOME COMMANDING OFFICERS TO TAKE UP NON- MILITARY DUTIES, AS MANAGERS OF FACTORIES OR CORPORATIONS, AND TO TAKE OVER FROM CHIEFS WHEN LATTER ATTEND COURSES TO LEARN THEIR JOBS. HE FURTHER WARNED SOLDIERS WHO MIGHT BE SELECTED FOR SUCH POSITIONS AGAINST TAKING BRIBES AND HARASSING THE PEOPLE.

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4. PRESIDENT CHARGED THAT TWO FORMER MINISTERS-- RUGUMAYO (EDUCATION) AND BANAGE (ANIMAL RESOURCES)-- ARE NOW IN ZAMBIA, WHERE THEY MAY BE DISCLOSING UGANDA' S SECRETS TO THE PRESS, CONTRARY TO OATHS THEY TOOK AS MINISTERS. AMIN SAID THESE TWO ARE IN POCKETS OF IMPERIALISTS. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT SOME MINISTERS NOW ON LEAVE MAY NOT RESUME THEIR POSTS BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORE THAN FIVE BUSINESSES, WHICH MEANS THEY " CANNOT COPE WITH SPEED OF UGANDA TODAY."

5. OTHER TOPICS COVERED BY PRESIDENT INCLUDED:

(A) A GROUP OF FOREIGN MILITARY VISITORS WILL COME HERE " TO STUDY UGANDA' S DECISION TO FORM HER OWN NAVY;"

(B) HE AGAIN REMINDED RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO ASSURE THAT THEIR OFFICES ARE MANNED BY UGANDANS AND NOT FOREIGN MISSIONARIES WHO ARE HERE TO ADVANCE THEIR POLITICAL MOVEMENTS;

(C) HE PLANS DIRECT MINISTER FINANCE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH STC TO BUILD A SALT FACTORY. UGANDA HAS HER OWN SALT, WHICH ONLY NEEDS TO BE PURIFIED, SO THERE IS NO NEED FOR UGANDA " TO GO ON HER KNEES BEGGING FOR LOANS TO BUILD THE FACTORY." UGANDA HAS MONEY NOW, AND PEOPLE ARE RICH, GENERAL SAID.

6. COMMENT: SALT IS ONE OF GROWING LIST OF SIMPLE COMMODITIES WHICH ARE IN INCREASINGLY SHORT SUPPLY.
KEELEY

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